

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fresh PBMC at 5×10^6 cells/ml in RPMI medium were plated on 12-well plates (1 ml/well), which had been coated with autologous plasma for 30 min at 37°C, and cultured at 37°C for 1 h. After gentle washing with serum-free RPMI-1640 medium, the adherent cells were cultured in Iscove's medium (2 ml/well) containing human GM-CSF (500 ng/ml) and IL-4 (200 ng/ml) for 5 days. Immature DC cultures were depleted of contaminating lymphocytes using the monocyte negative isolation kit (Dynal, Oslo, Norway), and were further cultured in human ~~[[IFN- γ]]~~ **IFN- β** (1,000 U/ml; Toray, Tokyo, Japan) for 1 day to obtain mature DC, after the method originally described by Santini et al. (10).